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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

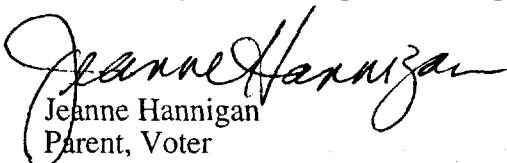
RE: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food"

Regarding the above issue, I would like to register my comment that the labeling on any food or food product should prominently use the terms "irradiation" or "irradiated" and display the radura symbol when food products have been subjected to this process. The absence of the above terms and symbol would mislead the consumer into believing that some other type of preservation process had been used. The consumer would not be aware that the product had been exposed to a process that destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that would not be expected from other types of "pasteurization" processes. Consumers would therefore be denied the ability to make an informed choice about the quality of the food they are buying, eating, and feeding to their children.

The dilution of labeling intentions by such obfuscating terms as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" is, in my opinion, a certainty to leave the bulk of consumers with a notion of a process completely opposite from "hot" irradiation. It is the most oxymoronic double-speak for irradiation. It seems absurd to create a euphemism for a process that already bears a name that is clear to everyone.

Similarly, any expiration of such a specific labeling requirement would be against the public's right to be, and continue to be, informed about the content of their food supply, and the processing to which that food supply has been subjected. Don't put an expiration date on the public's right to know.

Please keep labeling requirements specific, clear, and indefinitely binding.


Jeanne Hannigan
Parent, Voter

cc: Senators Daniel Akaka, Daniel Inouye
Representatives Patsy Mink, Neil Abercrombie

98N-1038

C 2016